

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6916

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CH

SUBJECT: CDU OFFICIALS DREGGER AND MARX VISIT TO PRC

REFS: (A) PEKING 294; (B) BONN 3018; (C) HONG KONG 2143

1. ALFRED DREGGER, HESSE CDU CHAIRMAN, AND CDU BUNDES-TAG DEPUTY WERNER MARX RETURNED TO THE FRG ON FEB. 29 AFTER A 14 DAY VISIT TO THE PRC.

2. UPON HIS RETURN, DREGGER STATED THAT THE PRC IS FILLING THE GAP LEFT BY THE U.S. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AS EXAMPLES OF THIS PROCESS DREGGER POINTED TO THE MEDIATOR ROLE WHICH THE PRC IS PLAYING BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIETNAM AND THE PRC'S SUPPORT FOR THE ASEAN STATES. DREGGER CALLED ON JAPAN AND WESTERN EUROPE TO UNDERTAKE THE POLITICAL TASKS IN EAST ASIA WHICH HAVE ACCRUED TO THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR ECONOMIC STRENGTH. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE "PARALYSIS OF U.S. POLITICAL WILL" IS DAMAGING THE AMERICAN POSITION IN

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SOUTHEAST ASIA MORE THAN THE WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM

HAS.

3. NEITHER MARX NOR DREGGER EXPECT THE PRC'S FOREIGN POLICIES TO CHANGE DESPITE THE OBVIOUS SIGNS OF INTERNAL STRUGGLE WHICH THEY OBSERVED DURING THEIR VISIT. THEY STATED THAT THEY EXPECT THE HARD LINE AGAINST THE SOVIETS AND RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE WEST TO CONTINUE. THEY REPORTED HEARING THE FAMILIAR WARNINGS FROM CHINESE OFFICIALS ABOUT SOVIET HEGEMONIAL DESIGNS. THE CHINESE URGED THE WEST EUROPEAN STATES TO FORM AN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY FORCE TO FACE THE SOVIET THREAT. MARX HAS STATED THAT IMPORTANT PARTS OF THIS CHINESE VIEWPOINT ARE SHARED BY THE CDU. HE PARTICULARLY MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT THE SHARED SKEPTICISM OF THE "REAL IMPORTANCE OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE IN THE CALCULATIONS OF SOVIET INTERNATIONAL POLITICS." IN A SIMILAR VEIN, DREGGER SAID THAT "COMMON INTERESTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMMON FEELINGS IN FOREIGN POLITICS." HE STATED THAT THE PRC AND THE FRG HAD A COMMON INTEREST IN HALTING THE EXPANSIONISM OF A LARGE NEIGHBOR.

4. THE MARX-DREGGER VISIT HAS SPARKED A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN DIE WELT WHICH FOLLOW THE GENERAL LINES OF THE MARX-DREGGER IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITUATION IN EAST ASIA.

5. THE CDU "RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE PRC WILL CONTINUE. GERHARD SCHROEDER, A CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WILL MAKE HIS SECOND VISIT TO THE PRC NEXT MONTH. FROM THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, HANS MATTHOEFER, MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, IS VISITING THE PRC FROM FEB. 29 UNTIL MARCH 12 (BONN 3393).

6. EMBASSY IS SEEKING A MEETING WITH MARX AND WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS REQUESTED IN PEKING REFTEL.
HILLENBRAND

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